

CHICKAMAUGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK TOUR ROADS, HAER No. GA-95-C
GORDON'S SLOUGH BRIDGE
Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park
Fort Oglethorpe Vicinity
Catoosa County
Georgia

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
100 Alabama Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

CHICKAMAUGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK TOUR ROADS, GORDON'S SLOUGH BRIDGE

HAER No. GA-95-C

Location: Chickamauga Battlefield Unit, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, at the confluence of Alexander's Bridge Road and Gordon's Slough, southeast of Alexander's Bridge, Fort Oglethorpe Vicinity, Catoosa County, Georgia

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute East Ridge, Georgia quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates: 16.661787.3863891

Significance: Gordon's Slough Bridge, Alexander's Bridge, (HAER No. GA-95-A), and the Connecting Roadway (HAER No. GA-95-B) are contributing features to the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The National Military Park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a discontinuous historic district. Alexander's Bridge, Gordon's Slough Bridge and the Connecting Roadway are contributing features of the 1890-1942 Commemorative Period.

There has been a bridge spanning West Chickamauga Creek in this location dating back to the Battle of Chickamauga. The wooden structure comprising Alexander's Bridge, which may have been present at the time of the battle, was badly deteriorated and replaced in 1897 with a new wooden bridge built on limestone abutments under the authority of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Commission. In 1907, this wooden bridge was replaced with the current steel pony truss structure using the stone abutments already in place, having been constructed in 1897 as part of the initial park development. Slough Bridge was built in 1907 with limestone used for the abutments. It is not known if a bridge existed at Gordon's Slough during the time of the 1863 Battle.

Description: Gordon's Slough Bridge is a steel girder bridge with a concrete bridge deck covered in earth and gravel. The present surface of the bridge is paved in asphalt. The bridge spans approximately 18' and supports a 12' roadway. An original steel pipe railing exists on the south side of the bridge, while the north railing has been replaced with newer welded-steel pipe and a crudely constructed timber guardrail. The bridge spans Gordon's Slough, a dry tributary that carries runoff from heavy rainfall events into West Chickamauga Creek to the north.

History: Gordon's Slough Bridge was designed in 1907 by Park Engineer Edward E. Betts. Figure 1 depicts Betts' "Plan of 12 Foot Girder Bridge with Reinforced Concrete Floor on the Alexander Bridge Road at Gordon Slough." Betts served as engineer in charge of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park from 1892 to 1911 and is responsible for the design and construction of much of the Commemorative Period infrastructure at the National Military Park. The 1907 Annual Report for the park reported the completion of a steel girder bridge over Gordon's Slough with an 18 foot span and a 12 foot roadway. Figures 2-8 show the construction of the bridge and roadway in June 1907. The bridge had a reinforced concrete floor

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with gravel surface, constructed on rubble masonry abutments laid in Portland cement. The cost for constructing the bridge was \$482.60. It is unclear if park personnel or outside contractors completed the work, although much of the steel would have been prefabricated off-site and assembled in place at Gordon's Slough.

Sources:

Ezell, David, Historic American Engineering Record. *Chickamauga National Military Park Tour Roads*, HAER No. GA-95. U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service HABS/HAER/HALS/CRGIS Division, Washington, D.C., 1998.

Paige, John C. *Administrative history of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park*. Denver Service Center, Denver, Colorado, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1983.

Report of the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Commission. U.S. War Department, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park Commission. Washington D.C., 1907.

Historian: William M. Brockenbrough, Brockington and Associates, Inc., 2010.

DRAWER 2 #36

PLAN

BENCH MARK
VALLE IN CORNER NO.
OUR WOOD TACK EQUAL
ELEVATION OF BRIDGE SEATS.

EAST

West

GORDON SLOUGH

RETAINMENT WALL WITH LEAN
CRAFT STONE.

SPRING RETAINMENT
FLOW INTO ADJACENTS
AND LAID TO CEMENT
MORTAR TO POINTS MARKED
A TO B. SURVEY SURFACE OF
GROUND.

SIDE ELEVATION

REINFORCEMENT

FIRST CLASS RIBBLE
MASSPORT IN CEMENT
MORTAR.

DEPTHS

DETAIL
SHOWING
FLOOR CONSTRUCTION
OF
REINFORCED CONCRETE

NOTE:
ALL REINFORCING BARS J&L 5"
COLD TWISTED.

GRAVEL ROADWAY

PORCELANE CEMENT CONCRETE

4'-0" C.T.C.

6"x8" FLOOR BOULDER
(LARGE END UP ON BRIDGE SEAT)

BRIDGE SEAT

CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA
NATIONAL PARK.

STANDARD PLAN OF
GIRDER BRIDGE WITH REINFORCED
CONCRETE FLOOR
ON THE ALEXANDER BRIDGE ROAD
AT
GORDON SLOUGH,
SCALE 1/2"=1 FT.

E. G. Orth
ENGINEER IN THE PARK
JUNE 14, 1907.

DRAWER 2 #36

Answer 236

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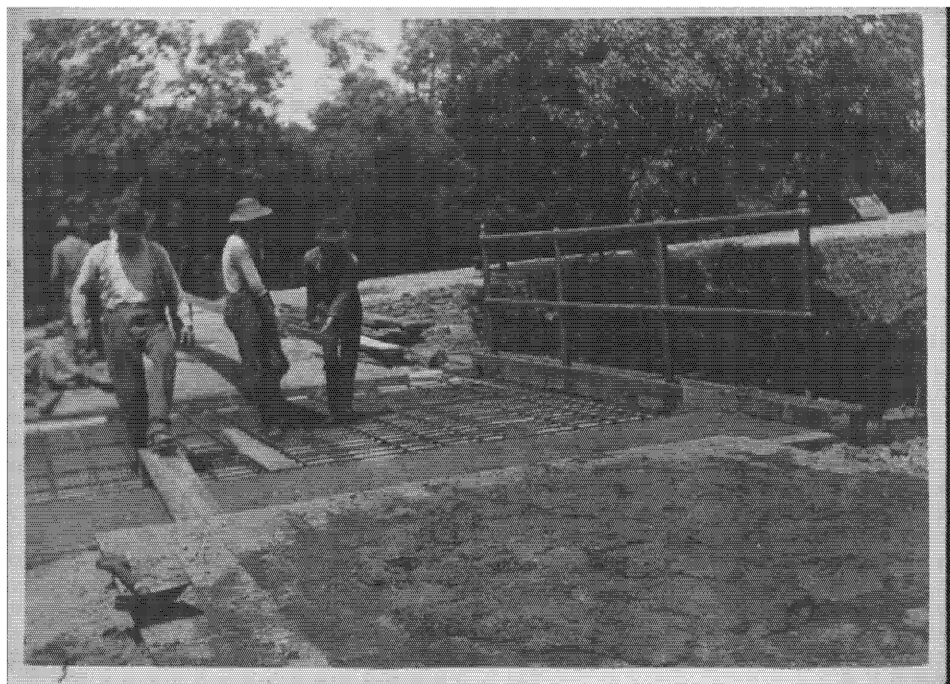


Figure 2. Gordon's Slough Bridge, 1907, showing Connecting Roadway in background.

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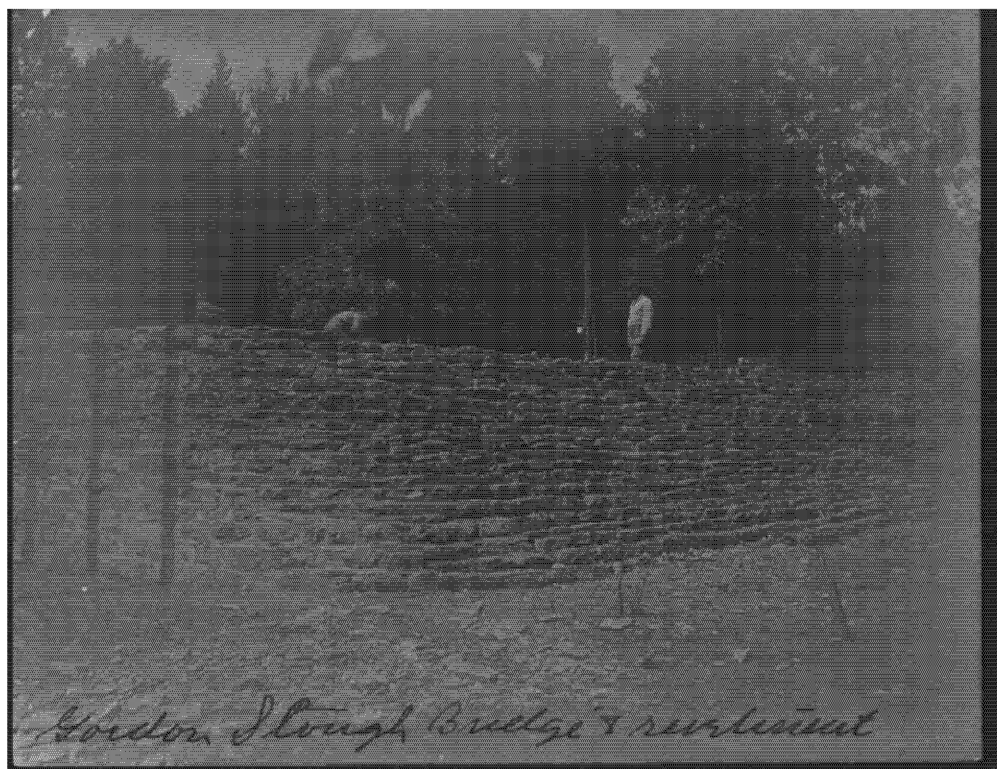


Figure 3. View of Gordon's Slough Bridge and Connecting Roadway.

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Figure 4. View of Gordon's Slough Bridge and east approach road of Alexander's Bridge, 1907.

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Figure 5. View of Gordon's Slough Bridge under construction, June 1907.

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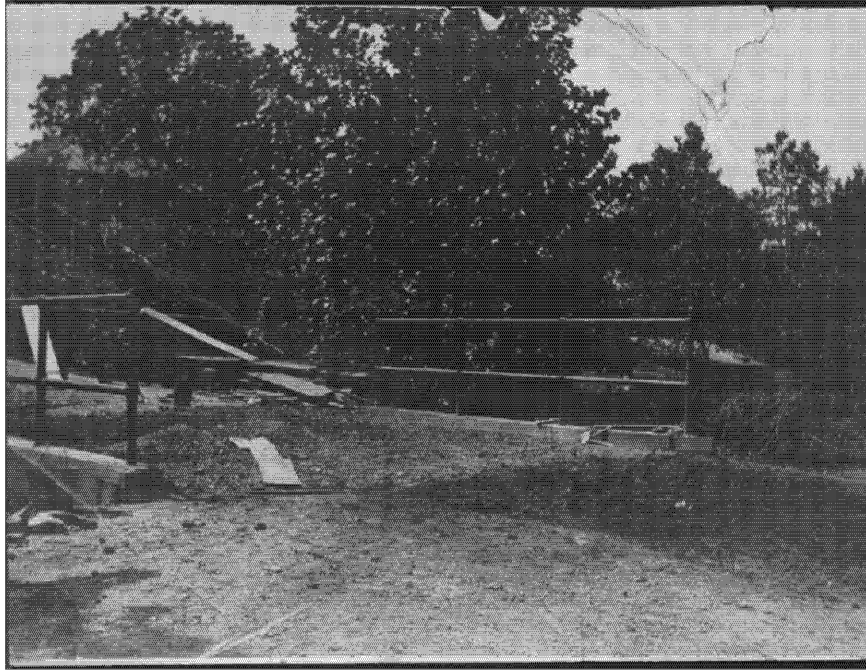


Figure 6. View of Gordon's Slough Bridge under construction, 1907.

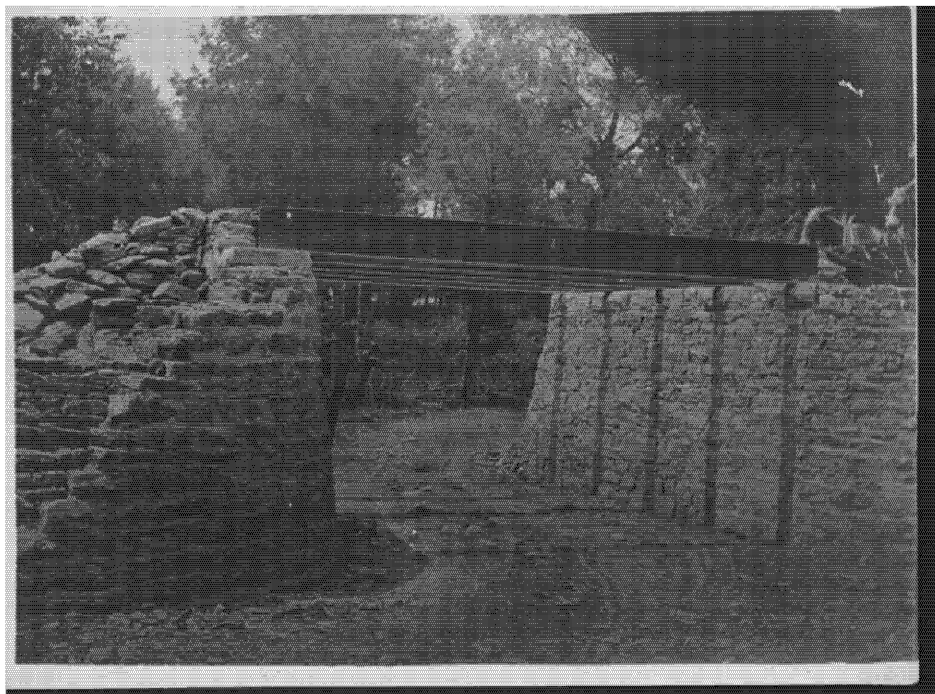


Figure 7. View of Gordon's Slough Bridge with girders in place, 1907.

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Figure 8. View of Gordon's Slough Bridge, placing concrete floor, looking north, August 1907.